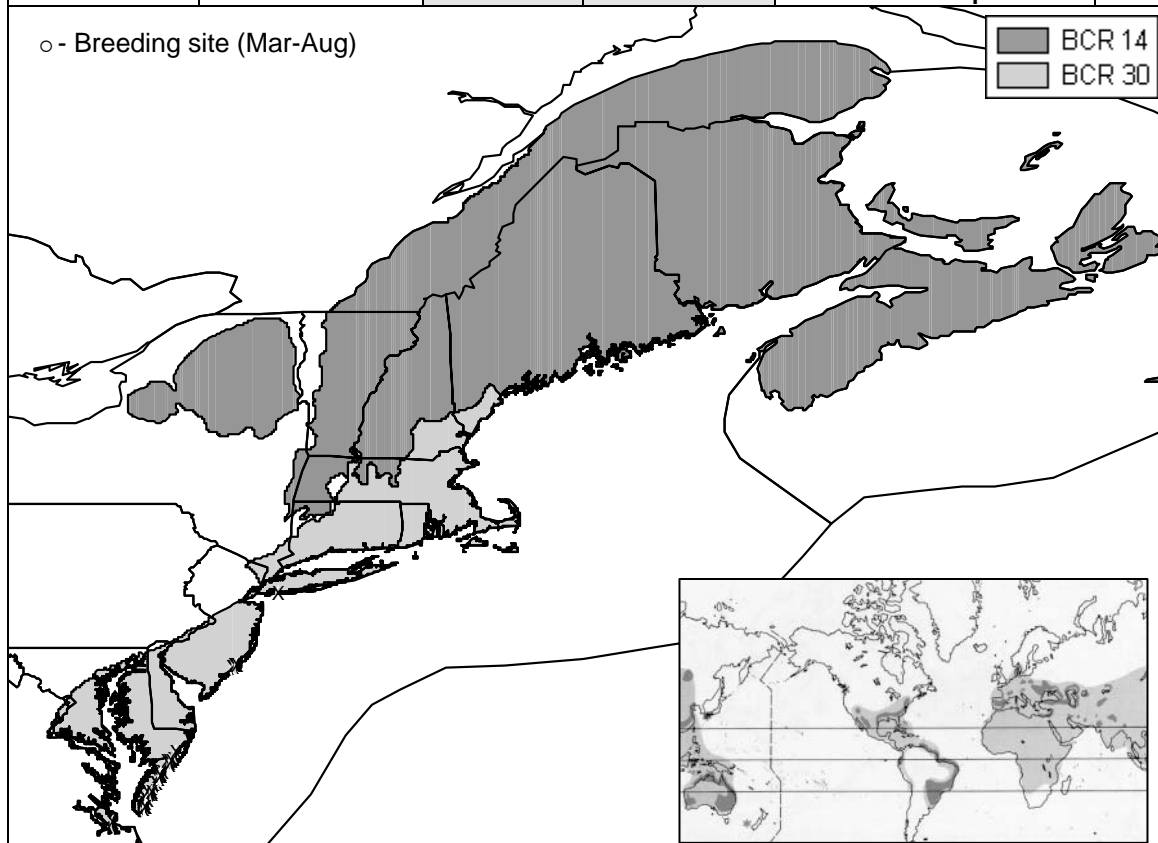


## GULL-BILLED TERN (*Sterna nilotica aranea*)

<b>Conservation Status:</b> Abundance (b=breeding, nb=nonbreeding, t=total individuals), Population Importance (% reference population) and Conservation Rank							
Global	North America	BCR 14	BCR 30	Mid-Atlantic	S. New England	Gulf of Maine	Maritimes
>33,780 – 68,050t	6,000 – 8,000b (47-71% global)	0b (0% NA)	2418b (22-30% NA)	2418b (100% MANEM)	0b (0% MANEM)	0b (0% MANEM)	0b (0% MANEM)
IUCN- Not Evaluated	NAWCP- High Concern		High	NJ- S1B; DE-SHB, S2N; MD-S1B; VA-S2B, SZN <b>MANEM Focal Species</b>	NY-S1; CT- no info; RI, MA, VT - no info	MA, NH, ME - no info; NB, NS - no info	QC, PE - no info; NB, NS - no info



### Regional Occurrence [BCRs 14 (LME 8), 30 (LME 7)]

- Distribution: breeds in BCR 30
- Habitats used: sand-shell substrate, gravelly or sandy beaches (breeding); salt marshes, estuaries, lagoons, plowed fields, and fresh-water marshes (non-breeding); forages within 11 km of colony; opportunistic; does not generally plunge dive like most other terns; primarily over beaches, salt marshes, and over inland plowed fields and shrubby habitats

NAWCP BD=3; NAWCP ND=2

### Regional Abundance

- 1990s: US—2418b (43 colonies); CAN—0b
- 1970s: US—3117b (18 colonies)
- 22% decrease in regional population

NAWCP PS=3; NAWCP PT=4

### Regional Threats/Limiting Factors

- Loss of beach nesting habitat and upland foraging sites due to development and erosion
- Mammalian predation and competition with gulls
- Human disturbance (vehicle traffic, feral cats, dogs, recreational activity) in nesting colonies leading to desertion and premature fledging

NAWCP TB=4; NAWCP TN=2

**Conservation Needs:** *Sustainability:* 1.5 young/pair; *Conservation Actions:* protect nesting colonies through beach postings and gull control; survey nests annually to monitor population status; research foraging requirements; artificial nesting islands have been shown to assist in the recovery of some populations; *Needs:* investigate contaminant effects, monitor, manage conflicts with gulls and other predators at nesting sites; *Population Goals:* restore (increase) ; *Habitat Goals:* TBD